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## Fine Needle Aspiration Cytologic Findings of Neurilemmoma

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Neurilemmoma is the most common benign lesion arising from the peripheral nerves, and its histological feature is well characterized. Cytologic diagnosis of neurilemmoma is usually made with ancillary clinical features such as severe pain on aspiration puncture. Specific cytologic feature is anticipated in consideration of its histologic features. Surgically confirmed 29 preoperative fine-needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) specimens of neurilemmoma between 1991–2007 were reviewed. Five cases (17%) were initially accurately diagnosed as neurilemmoma by FNAC. Benign diagnosis without specification was rendered in 9 cases (31%). The cases erroneously diagnosed as atypical spindle cell neoplasm were in three cases (11%), while 12 cases (41%) were considered insufficient material for FNAC diagnosis. We re-evaluated FNAC of neurilemmomas with regard to cellularity, nuclear palisading, Verocay bodies, Antoni A/B, fibrillary background and nuclear morphology including pleomorphism. The diagnostic smears in most cases contained spindle cells with wavy nuclei embedded in a fibrillary matrix background. Nuclear palisading was seen in 7 smears, but distinctive Verocay bodies were rarely found. The major problem in FNAC of neurilemmoma is to obtain sufficient material.